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SEPTEMBER LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

METRO AREAS

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced all twelve Wisconsin metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) had lower unemployment rates in September than in August. Four had lower rates in September 2005 than in September 2004, while seven were unchanged from the previous year's rates.

The Madison MSA had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 2.9 percent, followed by the La Crosse MSA at 3.4 percent. The Milwaukee/Waukesha MSA, the state's largest MSA, had an unemployment rate of 4.5 percent, an improvement over the August 2005 rate of 4.8 percent and the September 2004 rate of 4.7 percent. Racine's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent, down from 5.7 percent in August, but up slightly from the 5.1 percent estimated for September 2004.

COUNTY RATES

Fifty-nine of Wisconsin's seventy-two counties experienced lower unemployment rates in September than they experienced in August, while seven had higher rates and six were unchanged.

"Wisconsin's job picture continued to improve last month, with employers in many parts of the state facing a scarcity of workers as students left their summer jobs and returned to school. At the same time, we continue to keep an eye on areas of the state that have more workers than jobs available." Secretary Gassman said.

Forty-eight counties had unemployment rates of 4.0 percent or lower in September. The state's lowest unemployment rates were in Dane County at 2.8 percent, Trempealeau County at 3.0 percent, Buffalo County at 3.1 percent, and Dunn County at 3.2 percent. Four counties had unemployment rates of 3.3 percent, and eight had unemployment rates of 3.4 percent. There were only seven counties in the state with unemployment rates of 5.0 percent or higher. Menominee County had the highest September unemployment rate at 8.9 percent, followed by Florence at 5.9 percent, and Iron County at 5.7 percent.

Thirty-four counties had lower unemployment rates in September 2005 than they had in September 2004, while twenty-one had higher rates and seventeen were unchanged.

Looking at geographic areas of the state, there were several areas with very low unemployment rates overall. Of particular note were the south central and southwestern parts of the state which have declining unemployment rates. Southeastern Wisconsin continues to see the highest rates in the state.

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Employment and Labor Force Household Survey

Unadjusted estimates	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,047,300	3,057,800	3,060,000
Employed	2,925,800	2,927,700	2,935,200
Unemployed	121,500	130,100	124,800
Wis. Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.3%	4.1%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.8%	4.9%	5.1%

Seasonally adjusted	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,048,000	3,028,000	3,068,800
Employed	2,907,900	2,889,200	2,923,600
Unemployed	140,100	138,800	145,200
Wis. Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.6%	4.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.1%	4.9%	5.4%

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Unemployment % not seasonally adjusted	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Wisconsin	4.0	4.3	4.1
Appleton	3.7	4.0	3.7
Eau Claire	3.6	3.9	3.8
Fond du Lac	3.7	4.2	3.7
Green Bay	4.0	4.2	4.0
Janesville	4.6	4.9	4.7
La Crosse	3.4	3.6	3.4
Madison	2.9	3.0	2.9
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis	4.5	4.8	4.7
Oshkosh-Neenah	3.8	4.1	3.8
Racine	5.2	5.7	5.1
Sheboygan	3.6	3.7	3.7
Wausau	3.5	3.7	3.5

Source *Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Office of Economic Advisors

WISCONSIN COUNTIES

Unemployment Rates

September 2005

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
6	ADAMS	5.1%	5.5%	6	5.1%	53	MARATHON	3.5%	3.7%	54	3.5%
35	ASHLAND	3.8%	5.2%	10	4.2%	7	MARINETTE	5.0%	4.7%	17	5.2%
45	BARRON	3.7%	3.9%	45	4.0%	15	MARQUETTE	4.4%	4.8%	15	4.7%
28	BAYFIELD	4.0%	4.1%	41	4.0%	1	MENOMINEE	8.9%	13.0%	1	9.4%
31	BROWN	3.9%	4.1%	39	3.9%	4	MILWAUKEE	5.4%	5.7%	5	5.6%
70	BUFFALO	3.1%	3.5%	62	3.1%	58	MONROE	3.4%	3.9%	44	3.4%
36	BURNETT	3.8%	4.2%	33	4.1%	12	OCONTO	4.6%	4.4%	24	4.6%
50	CALUMET	3.5%	3.8%	48	3.1%	23	ONEIDA	4.1%	4.3%	29	4.2%
30	CHIPPEWA	3.9%	4.3%	26	4.3%	40	OUTAGAMIE	3.8%	4.1%	38	3.9%
27	CLARK	4.0%	4.2%	35	3.8%	66	OZAUKEE	3.3%	3.5%	63	3.0%
52	COLUMBIA	3.5%	3.7%	53	3.6%	42	PEPIN	3.7%	4.2%	31	3.4%
44	CRAWFORD	3.7%	4.0%	42	3.7%	56	PIERCE	3.5%	3.4%	69	3.9%
72	DANE	2.8%	2.9%	72	2.8%	41	POLK	3.8%	3.8%	50	3.9%
22	DODGE	4.2%	4.6%	19	4.2%	57	PORTAGE	3.4%	4.4%	21	3.5%
55	DOOR	3.5%	3.5%	66	3.7%	46	PRICE	3.6%	4.6%	18	3.5%
14	DOUGLAS	4.5%	4.8%	16	5.2%	5	RACINE	5.2%	5.7%	4	5.1%
69	DUNN	3.2%	3.7%	51	3.3%	67	RICHLAND	3.3%	3.4%	67	3.7%
59	EAU CLAIRE	3.4%	3.7%	52	3.5%	11	ROCK	4.6%	4.9%	13	4.7%
2	FLORENCE	5.9%	5.5%	7	5.1%	10	RUSK	4.7%	4.4%	25	4.2%
43	FOND DU LAC	3.7%	4.2%	32	3.7%	64	SAUK	3.4%	3.4%	68	3.4%
16	FOREST	4.3%	5.8%	2	4.2%	32	SAWYER	3.9%	4.1%	40	3.8%
65	GRANT	3.3%	3.8%	47	3.4%	24	SHAWANO	4.1%	4.3%	30	3.8%
38	GREEN	3.8%	4.1%	36	3.5%	49	SHEBOYGAN	3.6%	3.7%	57	3.7%
25	GREEN LAKE	4.0%	4.3%	27	4.0%	34	ST. CROIX	3.9%	3.7%	58	4.1%
68	IOWA	3.3%	3.3%	71	2.9%	60	TAYLOR	3.4%	3.6%	59	3.6%
3	IRON	5.7%	5.8%	3	5.8%	71	TREMPEALEAU	3.0%	3.3%	70	3.2%
18	JACKSON	4.3%	4.5%	20	3.9%	47	VERNON	3.6%	3.7%	55	3.6%
48	JEFFERSON	3.6%	3.7%	56	4.0%	29	VILAS	4.0%	4.0%	43	3.9%
9	JUNEAU	4.7%	5.3%	9	5.0%	63	WALWORTH	3.4%	3.5%	65	3.4%
8	KENOSHA	4.9%	5.0%	12	5.1%	21	WASHBURN	4.2%	4.8%	14	4.4%
33	KEWAUNEE	3.9%	3.9%	46	3.4%	51	WASHINGTON	3.5%	3.8%	49	3.6%
54	LA CROSSE	3.5%	3.6%	61	3.4%	61	WAUKESHA	3.4%	3.6%	60	3.5%
62	LAFAYETTE	3.4%	3.5%	64	3.2%	19	WAUPACA	4.3%	4.4%	22	3.9%
13	LANGLADE	4.5%	5.2%	11	4.6%	37	WAUSHARA	3.8%	4.2%	34	4.2%
20	LINCOLN	4.3%	4.4%	23	4.0%	39	WINNEBAGO	3.8%	4.1%	37	3.8%
26	MANITOWOC	4.0%	4.3%	28	4.5%	17	WOOD	4.3%	5.4%	8	4.3%

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
Bureau of Workforce Information

WISCONSIN CITIES
Unemployment Rates
September 2005
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
7	APPLETON CITY	4.8%	5.2%	8	5.1%
3	BELOIT CITY	6.3%	7.1%	2	6.9%
27	BROOKFIELD CITY	3.1%	3.2%	26	3.3%
21	EAU CLAIRE CITY	3.7%	4.0%	19	3.9%
11	FOND DU LAC CITY	4.5%	5.0%	10	4.4%
22	FRANKLIN CITY	3.4%	3.5%	23	3.6%
4	GREEN BAY CITY	5.7%	6.1%	4	5.9%
19	GREENFIELD CITY	3.9%	4.0%	20	4.0%
6	JANESVILLE CITY	5.0%	5.2%	9	5.2%
5	KENOSHA CITY	5.6%	5.7%	5	6.0%
18	LA CROSSE CITY	4.2%	4.5%	17	4.0%
28	MADISON CITY	2.9%	3.0%	28	2.9%
8	MANITOWOC CITY	4.8%	5.0%	11	5.4%
25	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	3.3%	3.6%	22	3.3%
2	MILWAUKEE CITY	6.6%	7.1%	3	7.0%
26	NEENAH CITY	3.2%	3.2%	27	3.3%
24	NEW BERLIN CITY	3.4%	3.4%	25	3.4%
20	OAK CREEK CITY	3.8%	3.8%	21	3.7%
16	OSHKOSH CITY	4.2%	4.7%	14	4.1%
1	RACINE CITY	8.2%	9.2%	1	8.2%
12	SHEBOYGAN CITY	4.5%	4.6%	16	4.7%
13	STEVENS POINT CITY	4.4%	5.2%	6	4.4%
14	SUPERIOR CITY	4.4%	4.9%	12	5.3%
17	WAUKESHA CITY	4.2%	4.6%	15	4.7%
10	WAUSAU CITY	4.6%	4.8%	13	5.1%
23	WAUWATOSA CITY	3.4%	3.5%	24	3.7%
15	WEST ALLIS CITY	4.4%	4.5%	18	4.6%
9	WEST BEND CITY	4.7%	5.2%	7	4.9%